

**HOT DOCS ANNOUNCES DAWN PORTER'S *LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH AS*  
2024 FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT FILM**

FILM TO RECEIVE ITS INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE AT HOT DOCS,  
DELIVERING A STIRRING PORTRAIT OF ICONIC SINGER/SONGWRITER LUTHER VANDROSS

**Toronto, March 26, 2024** – Hot Docs announced today that *Luther: Never Too Much* (USA | 2024 | 101 mins), directed by award-winning filmmaker **Dawn Porter**, will open the 2024 Hot Docs Festival on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 PM at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in Toronto.

*Luther: Never Too Much* explores the formative years of Luther Vandross's musical career, back to the epicentre of Black culture, Harlem's very own Apollo Theater. Using a wealth of rarely seen archival footage, Luther tells his own story with assistance from his closest friends and musical collaborators including Mariah Carey, Dionne Warwick, Valerie Simpson and Roberta Flack. The film relives the many stunning moments of Luther's musical career, while exploring his unrequited love life, health struggles, and a lifelong battle to earn the respect his music deserved. The film explores the incredible investment he put into his musical presentation, only to be met with frustration from being pigeonholed as an R&B artist, struggling to crossover, and battling with the record industry. The final chapters of Luther's life are celebrated by the memories of his cherished friends, family, and collaborators.

"*Luther: Never Too Much* is simply irresistible. Dawn Porter has masterfully crafted a beautiful, deeply moving film that celebrates the life and brilliance of a musical icon. It was clear to us that this film was the perfect way to kick off this year's Festival with a bang," shared **Marie Nelson**, Hot Docs' President. "Porter is a long-time friend of Hot Docs, and it's been a joy following her impressive trajectory through the years. We are thrilled to welcome her back to Toronto in April. We are certain that her latest film will mesmerize Festival audiences and cement its status as a standout gem among music docs."

Dawn Porter is an American documentary filmmaker and the founder of the production company Trilogy Films. Her award-winning films include *Gideon's Army*, about three black public defenders working in the southern United States; *Trapped*, about the impact of anti-abortion laws on abortion providers in the South, and *Bobby Kennedy for President*, which debuted on Netflix.

*Luther: Never Too Much* is produced by Trish Chetty, Ged Doherty, Jamie Foxx, Datari Turner, Leah Smith. Executive producers are Dawn Porter, Eli Holzman, Aaron Saidman, Tom Mackay, Richard Story, Jon Platt, Brian Monaco, Colin Firth, David Gottlieb, and Phil Thornton.

Dawn Porter and special guests from the film will attend the Hot Docs Festival 2024 Opening Night screening at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema (506 Bloor Street West) to introduce the film and participate in a post-screening audience Q&A.

In addition to its opening night screenings on April 25 at 6:30 PM (Industry screening) and 9:30 PM (public screening), the film will also screen on Saturday, April 27, at 9:15 PM. All screenings will take place at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema.

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[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 31<sup>st</sup> annual edition from April 25 to May 5, 2024, in cinemas across Toronto. Hot Docs will also mount a dynamic series of knowledge sessions, networking opportunities and market programs for documentary practitioners and industry delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum and Hot Docs Deal Maker. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema.

Starting Tuesday, March 26, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 2, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed [online](http://www.hotdocs.ca) at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca) or in person at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office, located at 506 Bloor Street West (hours vary daily in accordance with cinema screenings). Single tickets are \$20 to regular Festival screenings and \$23 to Special Presentations screenings (\$18-\$20 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$209 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$299. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to seniors and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability. Free screenings for students courtesy of CBC and CBC Gem.

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers as its Founding Partner; CBC as its Signature Partner; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Canada Media Fund as its Major Supporters.

**FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: media2024

**Media Contact:**

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano  
Senior Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca](mailto:jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca)